

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures, said intrafocal plate comprising an elongated intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, and having a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element integral with the intrafocal plate element adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, the body element being formed so as to extend generally in the lengthwise direction of the surface and wherein the other end of the body element defines a pin element.

2. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate according to claim 1, wherein a shoulder is defined between the surface and the one end of the body element connected thereto.

3. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinally extending resilient body element depends downwardly and outwardly from the bottom of the surface.

4. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate according to claim 1, wherein the surface defines one or more apertures therein.

5. (Previously Presented) An intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures, said intrafocal plate comprising an elongated intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, and having a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element integral to the surface adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, and the other end of the body element defining a pin, the intrafocal plate including one or more screws for insertion through one or more apertures defined in the surface of the plate element.

6. (Previously Presented) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing metaphyseal bone fractures, said intrafocal plate comprising an elongated

intrafocal plate element having a surface at one end thereof with one or more apertures therein and defining a top and a bottom and a leading end and a trailing end and sized to overlay a fracture site, and having a longitudinally extending intrafocal resilient body element integral to and depending from the trailing end of the surface so that the body element forms an acute angle with the surface and extends generally in the lengthwise direction of the surface, the body element being adjacent to but spaced apart from the trailing end of the surface of the plate element so that the leading end of the surface of the plate element extends above the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and so as to define an overhanging heel between the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element and the trailing end of the surface, the overhanging heel extending downwardly below the location at which the resilient body element is integral to the surface of the plate element wherein the heel serves to help stabilize the fracture site, the body element defining a shoulder at one end at the juncture of the body element and the surface and a pin at the other end of the body element.

7. (New) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing bone fractures comprising:

a plate element having a leading end and a trailing end, wherein the trailing end comprises an overhanging heel sized to overlay a fracture site, wherein the overhanging heel stabilizes the fracture site; and

a longitudinally extending resilient body element having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the body element is connected to the plate element at a location between the leading end and the trailing end.

8. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein the plate element has a surface for engaging the fracture site.

9. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 8, wherein the body element has a sinuous shape.

10. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein a portion of the body element extends adjacent the trailing end of the plate element.

11. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein the second end of the body element defines a pin element.

12. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein the longitudinally extending resilient body element depends downwardly and outwardly from the trailing end of the plate element.

13. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein the plate element has at least one aperture.

14. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 7, wherein the overhanging heel prevents over reduction of the fracture site.

15. (New) A longitudinally extending intrafocal plate for securing metaphyseal bone fractures, the intrafocal plate comprising:

an elongated plate element having at least one aperture and defining a leading end and a trailing end, wherein the trailing end is sized to overlay a fracture site;

a longitudinally extending body element connected to the elongated plate; and

an overhanging heel formed between the location at which the body element is connected to the elongated plate element and the trailing end of the elongated plate element, wherein the overhanging heel prevents over reduction of the fracture site.

16. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 15, wherein the elongated plate element has a surface for engaging the fracture site.

17. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 15, further comprising at least one screw insertable through the at least one aperture defined in the plate element.

18. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 15, wherein the body element forms an acute angle with the trailing end of the elongated plate element.

19. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 15, wherein a portion of the body element extends adjacent the trailing end of the plate element.

20. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 15, wherein the body element has a sinuous shape.

21. (New) An intrafocal plate for stabilizing a fracture site comprising:

a plate element having a first end and a second end; and

a body element having a sinuous shape and connected between the first end and the second end of the plate element;

wherein the second end of the plate element stabilizes the fracture site.

22. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the second end of the plate element prevents over reduction of the fracture site.

23. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the body element has a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, wherein the first portion curves away from the plate element, the second portion curves toward the plate element and the third portion curves toward the plate element.

24. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 23, wherein the first portion of the body element forms an acute angle with the trailing end of the elongated plate element.

25. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the second end of the plate element extends adjacent to a portion of the body element and maintains the plate element proximate the fracture site.

26. (New) The intrafocal plate of claim 21, wherein the plate element is securable to the fracture site with at least one screw.